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NBC BRIEFING

27 September 1965

VIETNAM

- I. Viet Minh are increasing pressure on Dien to enter consultations on elections.
 - A. Formally requested Britain and USSR as Geneva co-chairmen and Indian chairman of International Control Commission to insure implementation of Geneva Agreement.
 - B. Early this month Vietn proposed a settlement calling for a nationally elected parliament which would appoint a coalition government.
 - C. However, both zones would retain considerable autonomy under separate regional assemblies.
 - D. Plan obviously designed to reassure southerners.
- II. In a related move the Viet Minh announced cabinet changes on 20 September.
 - A. Pham Van Dong took over Ho Chi Minh's job as premier but Ho remains president and head of the party.
 - B. New position allows Ho to stand above and apart from government enhancing his value as nationwide popular symbol.
- III. Viet Minh continue take "hard" line on presence US Consulate Hanoi.
 - A. Refused consulate's request for permission to establish courier service.

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DOCUMENT NO. 19
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

1) DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 5

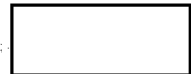
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- B. Made consul appear before examining board for driver's license which made patriotic speeches, threatened trial by "people's court" for traffic violations and informed consul he had failed examination.

IV. In the south, Dien has been refusing to consult with the Viet Minh but may now be ready to moderate position slightly.

- A. Dien currently drafting reply to Viet Minh note to Geneva co-chairmen relayed to Saigon by British on 23 September.
- B. Vietnamese answer may partly mount international pressure by referring decision to future national assembly.
- C. Government planning referendum on Bao Dai in late October, constitutional convention in November, elections for national assembly in December.
- D. Careful preparations apparently underway to insure that none of these steps will weaken Dien's control.
- E. Mounting pressure on his government has included Viet Minh-organized demonstrations for unification; army troops fired on three groups of demonstrators early this month.

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